

To whom it may concern,

Re: Orphan works

Uncompensated commercial use of artistic work is theft.

I appreciate the complications of tracking down ownership of some work. It's practically impossible for some things. But it's still theft if you use it without permission.

We have enough artists available to make new work to desired specifications. We don't need to steal.

As a web designer and photographer, I sit on both sides of this issue. I know the arguments for using found work, and I know the rampant theft of work.

But theft is theft, whether you can find who you are stealing from or not. Let's avoid expensive court cases over ownership, lies about "really looking", and the many other predictable consequences of this proposal. Just hire someone to make what you need. It's how the orphan work was created in the first place.

Jim Bracher